

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An easy-open lid for a container, comprising:

any one of a circular, elliptical or rectangular shape with rounded vertices, a cut line parallel and close to a perimeter of the lid for opening the lid with a punch-tear away ring tab attached to the body of the lid by a rivet and which is provided with a punching vertex acting on the cut line, wherein the cut line is provided with a curved breakage segment having a curvature center,

wherein coinciding with the rivet for attaching the ring tab to the body of the lid is the curvature center of the breakage segment, such that the punching vertex is kept in place on the breakage segment after an accidental rotation of the ring tab within the curve of the breakage segment during the process of handling the lid itself and the container to which it is associated.

2. (previously presented): An easy-open lid according to claim 1, wherein the amplitude of the curved breakage segment of the cut line is greater than 1°.

3. (previously presented): An easy-open lid according to claim 1, wherein the amplitude of the curved breakage segment of the cut line ranges between 1° and 80°.

4. (previously presented): An easy-open lid according to claim 1, wherein the amplitude of the curved breakage segment of the cut line is 20°.

5. (previously presented): An easy-open lid according to claim 1, wherein the curved breakage segment on the cut line is symmetrical with regard to an imaginary axis formed by a theoretical actuation point of the punch vertex of the ring tab, coinciding with the mid-point of the breakage segment, and the rivet for attaching the ring tab.

6. (previously presented): An easy-open lid according to claim 5, wherein the amplitude of the curved breakage segment of the cut line is 10° on each side of the theoretical actuation point of the punch vertex of the ring tab.

7. (previously presented): An easy-open lid according to claim 1, wherein the curved breakage segment of the cut line, with a curvature center on the rivet, is joined to the rest of the cut line by means of double, curved and counteropposing inflections for facilitating the opening of the lid along said line.

8. (currently amended): An easy-open lid for a container, the lid comprising:

a body;

a marginal strip surrounding at least part of the body and defining a perimeter of the lid;

a cut line close to the perimeter of the lid;

a punch-tear away ring tab attached to the lid at an attachment location, the tab comprising a punching vertex that acts on a part of the cut line when the tab is lifted; and wherein the cut line comprises a curved breakage segment comprising a center of curvature that ~~generally coincides with~~ is the attachment location.

9. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 8, wherein the lid further comprises one of a circular shape, an elliptical shape, and a rectangular shape with rounded vertices.

10. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 8, wherein the curved breakage segment is defined by a variation in the curvature of the cut line.

11. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 10, wherein the variation is one that comprises inward inflections on both sides of the curved breakage segment.

12. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 10, wherein the variation comprises a pair of offsetting, curved inflections on either side of the curved breakage segment.

13. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 8, wherein the cut line is parallel to the perimeter of the lid.

14. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 8, wherein the tab is attached to the lid at the attachment location by a rivet.

15. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 8, wherein the contour of the punching vertex matches the contour of the curved breakage segment.

16. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 8, wherein the curved breakage segment comprises a circular arc greater than 1° .

17. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 8, wherein the curved breakage segment comprises a circular arc between 1° and 80° .

18. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 8, wherein the curved breakage segment is symmetrical with respect to an imaginary axis formed by the mid-point of the breakage segment and the attachment location.

19. (currently amended): An easy-open lid for a container, the lid comprising:

a body;

a marginal strip surrounding at least part of the body and defining a perimeter of the lid;

a cut line close to the perimeter of the lid;

a punch-tear away ring tab attached to the lid at an attachment location, the tab comprising a punching vertex that acts on a part of the cut line when the tab is lifted; and

wherein before the tab is lifted the cut line comprises a curved breakage segment defined by a variation in the curvature of the cut line, the variation aligned with the punching vertex of the ring tab.

20. (previously presented): The easy-open lid according to claim 19, wherein the curved breakage segment comprises a center of curvature that generally coincides with the attachment location.